

Draft Minutes for July 19, 2023
118 Wells Hall and Zoom

Present: Christian Barnes, Duane Dycus, Jodi Hanneman, Orville Herndon, Dayna Hutchinson, Joshua Hutson, Casey Johnson, Sondra Kreger, Trish Lofton, Jeremy McKeel, Audrey Neal, Kim Newbern, Matt Purdy, Tressa Ross, Shyann Royalty, David Shelton, Matthew Todd.

Absent: Marty Anderson, Dedrick Brooks, Russell Dunn, Matthew Jones, Travis Plunkett, Angela Richerson, Dr. J. David Wilson.

Guests: Dr. Jessica Evans, Staff Regent; Courtney Hixon, Director, Human Resources.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President Trish Lofton called the meeting to order. She welcomed new Staff Congress members and asked those attending in-person and via Zoom to introduce themselves.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS PRESENT:

Courtney Hixon, Director, Human Resources: Courtney Hixon said the supervisor workshop series has started. The trainings will be held through November. Thirty-five supervisors have registered for the trainings. Other supervisors have been added to the waiting list for the spring semester workshop series. Upcoming Racer Wellness events include the watermelon social scheduled for July 25 and the lunch walking group scheduled for July 26. The registration table for the walking group will be located near the MSU gates close to the Fine Arts building. Between 50 and 60 employees participate

President Lofton said she emailed Staff Congress members a form to indicate their Staff Congress committee preferences. The form should be submitted by July 20. She is finishing the Annual Report and will present it to Staff Congress at the retreat on July 27. Based on feedback from Staff Congress members and Staff Survey comments, the Staff Congress meeting agenda has been restructured to focus more on staff needs and to be more efficient with the time length of meetings.

After committee assignments have been finalized, Ms. Lofton will schedule a training for committee chairs. The committees will select one or two goals from the 2023-2024 Staff Congress Goals and Objectives. The Executive Committee hopes to present the 2022-2023 Staff Congress Annual Report, the Goals and Objectives, and the Staff Survey results to the Board of Regents at the Board of Regents retreat in August.

The Executive Committee plans to hold listening sessions again this year. One session will focus on issues that pertain to non-exempt staff, such as overtime. Another session will focus on issues that affect exempt staff. Staff may attend either session regardless of exempt or non-exempt status. A third listening session will be a general listening session for all staff.

One change that resulted from the 2022-2023 listening sessions was the revision of Staff Congress constituency groups to include a representative from the exempt staff.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Orville Henderson welcomed new members. He has emailed to Staff Congress members a list of current Staff Congress members, changed by their current constituency groups and arranged by the new groups that were approved by Staff Congress in the meeting. The new representation structure is pending approval by the Board of Regents. Once approved, the transition to the new structure will occur in phases and will be fully implemented by July 1, 2026.

Staff Recognition and Special Events Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: Jeremy McKeel reported that he and the committee are developing a communications plan. The plan will be forwarded to Staff Congress.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Survey Committee: No report.

Textbook Scholarship Committee: No report.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: Trish L

